

Message Text

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UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 2042

DEPT FOR AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, SF

SUBJ: REMOTE SENSING WORKSHOP

REF: STATE 259496

1. REGIONAL RESOURCES OFFICER SWEETWOOD ATTENDED AS OBSERVER THE JOHANNESBURG NOVEMBER 17-19 REMOTE SENSING COURSE PRESENTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR REMOTE SENSING (REFTEL). WE ARE POUCHING SEPARATELY TO AF/S ONE (EACH) COPY OF THE PROGRAM AS PRESENTED, THE COMPLETE LIST OF DELEGATES (WITH INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION ASSOCIATION/TITLES), AUTHOR (LECTURER) BIODATA, ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS (AS AVAILABLE) AND REPRESENTATIVE AERIAL PHOTOS AND SCANNER IMAGES USED AS "COURSE" EXAMPLES. WE WILL ALSO FORWARD FULL TEXT COPIES OF ALL PAPERS WHEN AVAILABLE LATER AS COURSE PROCEEDINGS. AF/S MAY WISH TO PASS THESE DOCUMENTS ONWARD TO INTERESTED NASA SPECIALISTS (REFTEL).

2. THE COURSE, SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST EFFORT TO PUBLICLY PRESENT PROGRESS MADE IN REMOTE SENSING TECHNIQUES HERE, IN REALITY TOOK THE FORM OF AN INTRODUCTORY SYMPOSIUM-- RATHER THAN AS A "COURSE" (AS FORMALLY PROGRAMMED) OR AS A "WORKSHOP" (AS INFORMALLY BILLED). TO THIS EXTENT, THE SESSIONS WERE WELL ORGANIZED BY DR. F.J. HEWITT, CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR REMOTE SENSING, AND ABLY PRESENTED BY THE COURSE CHAIRMAN, DR. R.P. VILJOEN (JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, UNCLASSIFIED

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FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH UNIT - SPECTRAL AFRICA). THERE WERE

150 DELEGATES (INCLUDING LECTURERS) REGISTERED FOR THE COURSE; ONLY A VERY LIMITED REPEAT LIMITED NUMBER OF WHOM WERE FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. THERE WERE NO KNOWN DELEGATES FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND AMERICAN REPRESENTATION COMPRISED THREE DELEGATES ONLY; DR. H.P. FORMANEK (NOT A U.S. CITIZEN, BUT REPRESENTING THE AMERICAN CONSULTING FIRM, DAMES AND MOORE), W.R. WOMACK (U.S. CITIZEN, REPRESENTING PARTRIDGE, DE VILLIERS AND ASSOCIATES, JOHANNESBURG), AND THE REPORTING OFFICER.

DELEGATES FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TOTALED ELEVEN; I.E. BOTSWANA 5, LESOTHO 2, SWAZILAND 1, MALAWI 1, SOUTHWEST AFRICA (NAMIBIA) 1 AND RHODESIA 1. WHILE NEIGHBORING-COUNTRY DELEGATES ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY REPRESENTED PARENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, SOUTH AFRICAN ATTENDEES RANGED THROUGH THE SPECTRUM OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, WATER AFFAIRS, CSIR, SASOL AND DEFENSE FORCES), UNIVERSITIES, PRIVATE INDUSTRY OPERATING COMPANIES, AND PRIVATE CONSULTING FIRMS.

3. LECTURERS FOCUSED PRINCIPALLY ON SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERIENCES, RATHER THAN REGIONAL EXAMPLES (SAY) THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA, WITH EACH SESSION PROGRAMMED TO MOVE FROM BASIC PRINCIPALS OF REMOTE SENSING, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY, MULTI-SPECTRAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND SCANNING SYSTEMS THROUGH CASE HISTORIES AS TO HOW EACH HAS BEEN USED TO DATE IN GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE EVALUATIONS, CROPS AND SOIL STUDIES, AND IN MARINE AND FRESH WATER ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETATIONS. LANDSAT DATA CLEARLY FORMED THE BASES OF ALL PRESENTATIONS.

4. NEIGHBORING COUNTRY DELEGATES DID NOT NOTABLY PARTICIPATE IN ON-FLOOR DISCUSSIONS, BUT SOUTH AFRICANS ENTERED ALL SUCH QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIODS WITH EXCEPTIONAL ENTHUSIASM. GEOGRAPHIC, GEOLOGIC AND MINING-ORIENTED SUBJECTS HELD THE GREATEST INTEREST, WITH CROPS (AND SOILS) AND MARINE AND FRESH WATER ENVIRONMENTAL SESSIONS ONLY MODERATELY WELL ATTENDED. THE CONSENSUS WAS, HOWEVER, THAT A SECOND (AND EVEN BROADER-BASED) COURSE WOULD BE HELD IN 1977 -- TO HIGHLIGHT FURTHER PROGRESS MADE IN THE "STATE OF THE ART", AND TO (THEN) INCLUDE A PROPERLY-ORGANIZED APPLIED WORKSHOP WITH INTERPRETIVE ASSIGNMENTS FOR ALL PARTICIPATING DELEGATES.

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